

FREE & FUN Curriculum-Based Programs



These opportunities for 6th, 7th and 8th grades challenge students with hands-on learning experiences that are correlated with Tennessee middle school curriculum standards. Each program enhances classroom learning by using Great Smoky Mountains National Park's cultural and/or natural resources as teaching tools. Students have the opportunity to make real-world connections with science and history, while having fun at the same time!

Program Description	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Biodiversity Classroom Students will generate and test a hypothesis to guide their examination of biodiversity in different park ecosystems. Examination methods can include setting up a ground plot, using microscopes, and classifying organisms. Location: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center (near Gatlinburg) Stream Scientist Classroom	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.1 SPI 0607.2.2 Science	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0707 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Biodiversity and Change SPI 0807.5.1 SPI 0807.5.3 SPI 0807.5.2 SPI 0807.5.4 Science
Students will generate and test a hypothesis on the health of a river system. Examination methods can include water quality tests, identification of point and non-point pollution sources, and a benthic macroinvertebrate search and classification. Location: Various locations	Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.1 SPI 0607.2.2	Embedded Inquiry SPI 0707 Inqs 1, 2,3,4,5	Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Biodiversity and Change SPI 0807.5.1 SPI 0807.5.3 SPI 0807.5.2 SPI 0807.5.4
Forest/Stream Biodiversity Classroom Students will discover the rich biodiversity of different ecosystems in the park. Examination methods include setting up a ground plot (forest), benthic macroinvertebrate search (stream), and classification. Location: Various locations	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.1 SPI 0607.2.2	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0707 Inqs 1, 2,3,4,5	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Biodiversity and Change SPI 0807.5.1 SPI 0807.5.3 SPI 0807.5.2 SPI 0807.5.4
Dig This! Archeology Classroom Students learn how park archeologists continually learn about historic and pre-historic cultures. Students participate in methods and techniques for discovering, cataloging, and preserving artifacts. Includes an exploratory hike. Location: Various locations	Social Studies Culture History 6.1 SPI.1 6.5 SPI.2 6.1 SPI.2 6.5 SPI.5 6.1 SPI.6 6.5 SPI.6	Social Studies Geography History 7.3 SPI.1 7.5 SPI.2 7.3 SPI.18 Individuals, Groups, and Interactions 7.6 SPI.1	Social Studies Culture History 8.1 SPI.2 8.5 SPI.2 8.1 SPI.3 8.5 SPI.11 8.1 SPI.6 Geography 8.3 SPI.3 8.3 SPI.6
Interdependence Classroom Students identify interrelationships of the Park's natural features while the connections between humans and natural resources are examined. Locations: Various locations	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.2 SPI 0607.2.4	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0707 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5

SPI 0607.2.3

Program Description	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	
Appalachian Heritage Classroom	Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies	
Students explore the park while learning about the different groups who have called these mountains home. Examples include Cherokee Indians, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and European settlers. Location: Various locations This program can include a four-mile hike to a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp (from Sugarlands).	Culture 6.1 SPI.1 6.1 SPI.2 6.1 SPI.6	Culture History 7.1 SPI.1 7.5 SPI.2 Economics Ind., Groups, and 7.2 SPI.1 Interactions 7.2 SPI.2 7.6 SPI.1 Geography 7.3 SPI.18	Culture Geography 8.1 SPI.2 8.3 SPI.3 Economics 8.2 SPI.1 Ind., Groups, and Interactions 8.6 SPI.1 8.6 SPI.4 8.6 SPI.2 8.6 SPI.5	
The Smokies Rocks! Classroom Students will hike to a scenic view to explore the Smokies geology and its impacts on local geography. Maps, compasses and GPS units are used. Location: Look Rock in Blount County, TN; various locations in development	Science Social Studies Embedded Geography Inquiry 6.3 SPI.2 SPI 0607 Inq. 4 Embedded Tech./Eng. SPI 0607 T/E. 3 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.3	Science Social Studies Embedded Geography Inquiry 7.3 SPI.1 SPI 0707 Inq. 4 7.3 SPI.6 Embedded 7.3 SPI.11 Tech./Eng. 7.3 SPI.18 SPI 0707 T/E. 3 The Earth SPI 0707.7.2 SPI 0707.7.5 SPI 0707.7.3 SPI 0707.7.6 SPI 0707.7.4 SPI 0707.7.7	Science Social Studies Embedded Geography Inquiry 8.3 SPI.4 Embedded Tech./Eng. SPI 0807 T/E. 3 Biodiversity and Change SPI 0807.5.4	
Soil Exploration Classroom Students explore the abiotic and biotic factors of the deciduous forest. Exploration methods can include constructing a food web, analyzing soil properties, and using scientific equipment to collect and classify organisms in the forest. Location: Twin Creeks Science and Education Center (near Gatlinburg)	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5 Interdependence SPI 0607.2.1 SPI 0607.2.2 SPI 0607.2.3 SPI 0607.2.4	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0707 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5 Earth and Space Science (The Earth) SPI 0707.7.7	Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5 Biodiversity and Change SPI 0807.5.1 SPI 0807.5.3 SPI 0807.5.2 SPI 0807.5.4 Physical Science (Matter) SPI 0807.9.12	
Park Management Classroom Students role play park constituents as they debate current issues facing Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Location: Various locations This program can include a three-mile bicycle trip around a portion of the Cades Cove loop road (bike rental fee required). Weather & Air Quality Classroom Students will use meteorological instruments and observations to formulate a weather forecast for the National Park. The relationship between weather and air pollution will also be discussed.	Social Studies Culture 6.1 SPI.1 6.1 SPI.6 Governance and Civics 6.4 SPI.1 Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0607 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5 Atmosphere SPI 0607.8.1	Social Studies Economics Governance 7.2 SPI.2 and Civics Geography 7.3 SPI.13 Ind., Groups, and 1.3 SPI.18 Interactions History 7.6 SPI.1 7.5 SPI.1 7.6 SPI.3 Science Social Studies Embedded Geography Inquiry 7.3 SPI.18 SPI 0707 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5	Social Studies Economics Geography 8.2 SPl.1 8.3 SPl.3 Governance Ind., Groups, and Civics and Interactions 8.4 SPl.1 8.6 SPl.2 8.4 SPl.2 8.6 SPl.4 8.4 SPl.3 8.6 SPl.5 Science Embedded Inquiry SPI 0807 Inqs 2, 3, 4, 5	
Location: Newfound Gap; various locations in development Service Projects Science Projects Volunteer Opportunities Job Shadowing Internships	SPI 0607.8.2 SPI 0607.8.4 These hands on projects and opportunities give young adults an opportunity to get involved in their national park while providing career guidance and specialized field experiences. Please contact us to learn more about these opportunities for individual and group involvement.			

All programs are FREE.

Bus assistance money may be available.

In addition, ALL programs address English/Language Arts (Communication) standards.

> 6th - SPI.0601.2.4, SPI.0601.2.5 7th - SPI.0701.2.7, SPI.0701.2.8 8th - SPI.0801.2.7, SPI.0801.2.8

For additional information or to reserve date(s) for you class:

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